

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action claims 1-22 were pending. Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,445,460 to Pavley (hereinafter Pavley).

First, the Applicants appreciate the withdrawal of the restriction requirement set forth in the previous Office Action and examination of all pending claims. Next, although the Applicants traverse the rejections and disagree with the Examiner's position that Pavley anticipates the Applicants' claimed method and digital camera, nevertheless, the Applicants have amended the balance of claims to advance prosecution by more distinctly reciting how images to be photographed or images being displayed are concealed to distinguish over the cited art of record. The Applicants request reconsideration based on the present amendments, which are fully-supported by the as-filed specification (see, for example, page 9, lines 4-12 and FIG. 7) and, therefore, introduce no new matter.

The Office Action cites to column 5, lines 25-45 of Pavley as teaching various functional steps of the Applicants' method (i.e., steps of assigning a password and setting concealment). However, in contrast to the Applicants' method that prevents a concealed photographed image from being displayed on a display screen of the digital camera, the Applicants would like to point out that column 5, lines 46-60 of Pavley disclose that file attributes (including the hidden file attribute) "are used in order to synchronize file handling in a photosystem environment, i.e., between a digital camera 110 and an externally connected computer system, as represented in FIG. 6." Accordingly, the Applicants submit that Pavley does not disclose, teach or suggest a step of not displaying the concealed image when the digital camera is set in an image reproduction mode (i.e., display mode).

Regardless, independent method claims 1, 11 and 14 are amended to recite that, by setting or selecting concealment of an image (i.e., an image to be captured/photographed and/or an image being displayed on the digital camera), the file name of the digitized image is changed to a file name that is different from a currently-used file name convention or standard. See, for example, page 9, lines 4-12 of the present application which states, "Thus, when file names are generated that are not appropriate to the standard ..., the image information is concealed, unlike image information files displayed according to the typical standard."

The Applicants have studied Pavley and the remaining cited art of record and cannot find any teaching, disclosure or suggestion of image file concealment by changing a file name of the stored image file. To this end, the Applicants submit that claims 1-17 are allowable.

With regard to claims 18-22 that are directed to embodiments of the Applicants' digital camera, independent claims 18 and 20 have been amended to more distinctly recite a concealment button that has a dedicated concealment function assigned thereto (i.e., not a soft-key or button known in the art). The Applicants have studied Pavley and the remaining cited art of record and cannot find any teaching, disclosure or suggestion of a concealment button that has a dedicated concealment function assigned thereto. Furthermore, the Applicants are not aware of any commercially available or previously available camera with such a concealment button. To this end, the Applicants submit that claims 18-22 are allowable.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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